

ANTIETAM.

DEDICATION OF THE NATIONAL CEMETERY.

FULL REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS.

ORATION OF HON. A. W. BRADFORD

THE DEDICATORY ODES AND HYMNS.

SPEECHES OF GOVERNORS GEARY AND FENTON

Etc., Etc., Etc., Etc., Etc.

The Dedication. A stand capable of accommodating eight hundred persons was erected near the site of the monument.

Then came the members of the diplomatic corps, and then the representatives of the various States, Pennsylvania, New York by Governor Fenton, General Schaler, Palmer, Olcott, Young and McMahon; New Jersey by Governor M. L. Ward, General A. C. T. Roberts, and General Oakley, Horace N. Conger, Secretary of State, Hon. William L. Dayton, Jr., the Governor's Secretary, George A. Halsey, member of Congress, Maryland by the Governor, Governor Bradford, Governor Swann, Major-General John S. Berry, Hon. J. B. Latrobe and Brigadier-General Nelson. Connecticut was represented by Governor English, General Ingersoll and Colonel W. S. Charny.

The following named representatives of foreign countries were present:— Great Britain—Francis Clare Ford, Esq., Secretary of Legation.

France—M. J. Berthemy, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, and the Viscount de St. Ferrier, Secretary of Legation.

Russia—Mr. Edward de Stoeckel, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, and Mr. Waldemar de Bodelo, Secretary of Legation.

Spain—Senator Don Pascual Goni, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary.

Italy—The Chevalier Cerruti, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, and M. Romeo Cantanagli, Secretary of Legation.

Austria—Baron Frankenstein, Charge d'Affaires.

Nicaragua and Honduras—Senor Don Luis Mallin, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary.

Mexico—Senor Don Romero, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary; Senor Don Ignacio Mariscal, Secretary of Legation, and Senor Don Cayetano Romero, Secretary of Legation.

Turkey—M. Blaque, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary; M. Balze, Secretary of Legation.

Governor Bullock, of Massachusetts, being unable to attend, that State was represented by the following named gentlemen:—General Commanding, Adjutant-General Cunningham; General William R. Lee, Brigadier-General, and Major-General, and William S. King, all of whom were in the battle of Antietam.

The ceremonies were commenced by Governor Swann, who delivered a brief speech, as follows:—

Maryland, President of the Day. Fellow Countrymen:—Before proceeding with the programme, which has been handed to me by the Committee of Arrangements, I desire to propose that as the official organ of the State of Maryland upon whose soil and with whose hearty co-operation this cemetery has been founded, I should extend a cordial welcome to the distinguished guests from the United States, and his Cabinet, the Governors of our sister States, and the distinguished guests who have come here to-day in the ceremonies of this most interesting occasion.

During the administration of my immediate predecessor, the first appropriation was made by the State of Maryland, and the application for the site of the dead who fell upon the battle-field of Antietam.

At a subsequent period the appropriation thus made had been found to be inadequate, and the committee charged with this trust a further sum was added, in response to a communication made by me to the Legislature, in the year 1862, in which I had having this done, my share in providing a burial place for these brave and patriotic men, the co-operation of our sister States was invoked to lend their aid in throwing around it a national interest, and the most liberal contributions have been accorded me by nearly all the States, in the removal of their dead, the erection of monuments, and in adding to the attractiveness of the place. The work, so far as it has progressed, is now before you.

The flag which floats over us to-day is the flag of our Union, and it has been hoisted here, as the tramp of conquering armies, the cry of the patriot against son and brother against brother, no longer resounds within our borders. The star of this great Republic, again, is seen in the calm sunshine of peace, we are here to mingle our tears with the survivors of the illustrious dead, who have sacrificed their lives for their country, and are sleeping upon this hallowed soil.

May I not, in this solemn hour, invoke the interposition of Almighty God for a speedy restoration of harmony and brotherly love throughout this broad land; that the North, South, East, and West, leaving aside the animosities of the past, we may stand together hereafter, and in all future time, as one people, having a common origin, and bound together by a common destiny. May the work, so far as it has progressed, be now before you.

He was greatly cheered at the conclusion of the above address.

Next followed prayer, by Rev. Hiram Mattison, D. D. of New York.

Then the following hymn, composed by Rev. Edward Meyer, was sung by the assemblage:—

Dedicatory Hymn. Written by the Rev. Edward Meyer, of Pennsylvania, late Chaplain in the army, and now in the call of the Antietam National Cemetery, September 17, 1867, under the lead of William E. McDonough, of New York.

Old Hundred. 1. "Acedamus! O Lord, our God, Who evermore dost Israel keep, Watered in tears, baptized in blood, Thou givest our beloved sleep.

2. They came as freedom's trumpet call, From hall and cottage, farm and dome, Venturing limb, and life, and all For truth and right, for heart and home!

3. Thousands of heroes bit the dust, Antietam, on thy crimson field! Three armed were they, with quarrel just, The Lord their banner, sun and shield.

4. Lift high the granite shaft for all That fell where duty summoned them; Their country's name—our nation's flag their pall, A nation wait their summons!

5. O Lord, and shall they live again, Thy presence, the seed of crimson strife? Thy Spirit, the life of our slain, And they shall thrill with endless life!

6. In living hope, then, we commit To Thee, O Lord, our freedom's gift, Transferring in the urn of Heaven.

7. During the intervals there was music by the band. The corner-stone of the monument was laid according to Masonic rites.

Ex-Governor Bradford then delivered the following oration:—

Address of Ex-Governor Bradford. We have met here to-day to inaugurate the work of the most memorable of the battle-fields of our war, and we stand upon a site selected from the midst of it as an appropriate resting-place for those who here laid down their lives as a sacrifice to the cause of free government and a national Union.

We have come at the instance of the trustees, to whom the subject has been more especially committed, to dedicate, by some public and official proceeding, on this anniversary of the battle, the spot so selected, hallowed as it is already, with every bell accorded, in the heart of the nation.

In this ceremony, the President of the United States, several members of his Cabinet, the Chief Justice of the United States, members of the National Legislature, Governors, or other distinguished representatives of most of the States, whose citizens formed the army the Union, have honored us with their presence, meaning, I am sure, for them-

selves and those they represent, to express by that presence their enduring gratitude to the soldiers, living or dead, who so nobly stood by them in their darkest hour.

With such a company around me, and this vast throng in front, I feel, as you may be imagined, as though I were the responsible officer of the duty which I have been honored, an honor for which I am doubtless chiefly indebted to the accidental circumstance that I was to some extent officially connected with the initiation of the Cemetery, so far at least as the selection of its site was concerned. When, directly after the battle, the details of the army, and the officers and men of the Union army, who had so successfully expelled the invader from our State, the Commanding General of that army, whom it was transmitted, responded to it in terms that challenged our attention.

Expressing, on behalf of the Army of the Potomac, their thanks for our appreciation of their achievements, and their hopes that no Rebel army would again pollute our State, he concluded by committing to the trustees the responsibility of the duty which I have been honored, an honor for which I am doubtless chiefly indebted to the accidental circumstance that I was to some extent officially connected with the initiation of the Cemetery, so far at least as the selection of its site was concerned.

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polled the latter to commence a retrograde movement, which, continued from point to point until he reached the Blue Mountains.

During the last week of August, Pope's army was kept in almost continual action, having little or no time for rest or refreshment. He engaged his army every day, although now supposed to some extent by a part of the army now arriving from the Peninsula—displaying conspicuous gallantry and evincing the most heroic courage. He was, however, overtaken by the less gradually forced back by Lee's army, the greater part of which had now arrived from Richmond, and which, under the leadership of the battle-field of Bull Run, in which fell that brave old soldier, the gallant Kearney—into and footsore, on the 31 of September, they fell back within the fortifications of Washington.

You will not, I am sure, so far misunderstand me as to suppose that in referring thus briefly to the campaign of General Pope, I have any design to criticize his conduct, or to detract from those who still make it the subject of an ungenerous sneer. I am happy, however, to believe that it never came from the mind of any man to ascribe to those who were so distinguished by the scene of conflict placed them as far out of the reach of information as of danger.

The day of the 30th of September, directing his course toward this city, he doubtless supposed that the reticent policy and strategic maneuvers he had once so successfully pursued would insure the same influence on McClellan's movements, leaving him in doubt as to where the threatened blow would ultimately fall; but, by one of those rare occurrences which some call accidents, and others a special Providence, there fell into McClellan's hands, on the day of his arrival at Frederick, a copy of Lee's order of march, dated the day before the day of the 30th of September, and which he showed to his officers. This told the whole story of his contemplated movements, and possessed of that information, a new vigor was infused into the Union host.

The order of march, which was directed towards Pleasant Valley, that it might, if possible, reach and relieve Harper's Ferry before it should be captured by the force Lee had detached for the purpose, McClellan and his army moved forward toward the South Mountain, on the track Lee had himself taken. The latter having already passed on toward the North, the Rebels were pushed on by the way of Turner's Gap, and surprised, no doubt, at the unexpected vigor and rapidity of his progress. The order of march, which was directed towards Pleasant Valley, that it might, if possible, reach and relieve Harper's Ferry before it should be captured by the force Lee had detached for the purpose, McClellan and his army moved forward toward the South Mountain, on the track Lee had himself taken.

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from the dogged, moody, snoring and stifled condition in which the presence of the Confederates had forced the Army of the Potomac to remain.

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